

Mr. Charlie Argon '17

I'm a senior in the East Asian Studies department from Charlottesville, Virginia. At Princeton, my research has focused on cross-cultural dialogue. How can we understand another culture? What are the pitfalls? As an EAS major, China is my case. My senior thesis, therefore, is about cultural exchange and globalization. Over fall break, I used the Class of '54 Thesis Funding to travel to London, where I bent over letter books eight hours a day photographing diplomatic correspondence in the National Archives. The documents hold a wealth of information about how the British and Chinese governments faced globalization. Through a series of disputes, they're developing what became international law. It's fascinating. Thank you for the funding.

Ms. Erika Kirgios '17

I am a senior AB COS major with certificates in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science. For my thesis, I will be studying identity-related Twitter activity near the time of the 2016 presidential election. This involves creating a classifier that is able to predict where a tweet falls on a spectrum from identity empowering to identity disempowering (hate speech). In order to make these predictions, I need human raters to classify each of about 200,000 tweets so that my algorithm can learn from their classifications. I am using three raters per tweet, and am collecting some demographic information (age, race, sex, political affiliation). I hope that I can control for any effects of these variables on the ratings, if they exist. As for other biases, I am afraid that I would have a hard time factoring them in since I cannot ask more personal questions/have them take the IAT without IRB approval. The money from the Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund will go towards paying for this crowdsourcing, and I very much appreciate the support!

Ms. Chandler Sterling '17

I am American originally from New York City; however, I went to high school at the American School in Paris, where my family has now lived for several years. I am a History concentrator with a certificate in European Cultural Studies. During my junior spring, I studied abroad at Oxford University, where I devoted my time to the study of British Intellectual and Cultural History, and laid the groundwork for my thesis. My senior thesis is supervised by Professor Sir David Cannadine, and examines the development of Auguste Comte's Positivism in mid-Victorian Britain, emphasizing connections between the Religion of Humanity and the Anglican Low Church. History and research have long been passions of mine, and because of the award I received, I was able to travel to Edinburgh, London, and Oxford to examine archival materials absolutely crucial to my thesis. Next year, I hope to take this research even further through graduate-level studies, and ultimately hope to pursue a career in the field. It was indeed a great joy to receive the award from the Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund. I hope my gratitude can be passed along to the class.